

II. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The below listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently amended) A liquefied soluble acidity reducing formulation comprising from about 15% to about 20% by weight of an edible bicarbonate, a soluble binder, water, and optionally a preservative, wherein the weight of said edible bicarbonate is based on the total weight of the edible bicarbonate, soluble binder and water, and wherein the formulation ~~substantially excludes~~ does not contain acidulent components.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) A liquefied soluble acidity reducing formulation consisting essentially of about 15% to about 20% by weight of an edible bicarbonate, a soluble binder, water and optionally a preservative, wherein the formulation ~~substantially excludes~~ does not contain acidulent components, and wherein the weight of the edible bicarbonate is based on the weight of the edible bicarbonate, soluble binder and water.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) A liquefied soluble acidity reducing formulation comprising an edible bicarbonate, a soluble binder, water and optionally a preservative, wherein the formulation includes from about 0.5 to about 1 part of propylene glycol and does not contain ~~substantially excludes~~ acidulent components.

14. (Currently amended) A method for raising the pH of a consumable food or beverage product before consumption of said food or beverage product comprising:

mixing with said food or beverage product, an effective amount of a liquefied soluble acidity reducing formulation comprising: (i) from about 15% to about 20% by weight of an edible bicarbonate; (ii) a soluble binder; (iii) water and (iv) optionally, a preservative, wherein the weight of the edible bicarbonate is based on the total weight of the edible bicarbonate, soluble binder and water, and wherein the formulation ~~substantially excludes~~ does not contain acidulent components.

15. (Previously amended) The method for raising the pH of a consumable food or beverage product before consumption, according to claim 14, wherein said food or beverage product is a beverage.

16. (Previously amended) The method for raising the pH of a consumable food or beverage product before consumption, according to claim 14, wherein an effective amount of said formulation is added to said food or beverage product to raise the pH of the food or beverage product from about 0.5 to about 2 pH units.

17. (Currently amended) A method for raising the pH of a consumable food or beverage product before consumption of said food or beverage product comprising:

mixing with said food or beverage product, an effective amount of a liquefied soluble acidity reducing formulation consisting essentially of: (i) an edible bicarbonate; (ii) a soluble binder; (iii) water; and (iv) optionally, a preservative, wherein the formulation ~~substantially excludes~~ does not contain acidulent components.

18. (Previously amended) The method for raising the pH of a consumable food or beverage product before consumption, according to claim 17, wherein said food or beverage product is a beverage.

19. (Previously amended) The method for raising the pH of a consumable food or beverage product before consumption, according to claim 17, wherein an effective amount of said formulation is added to said food or beverage product to raise the pH of the food or beverage product from about 0.5 to about 2 pH units.

20. (Original) A packaged acid-containing food product containing a pH increasing amount of a formulation consisting essentially of an edible bicarbonate, a soluble binder, water and optionally a preservative.

21. (Previously amended) The packaged acid-containing food product, according to claim 20, wherein said formulation excludes acidulent components.

22. (Previously added) The liquefied soluble acidity reducing formulation, according to claim 5, wherein the edible bicarbonate is selected from the group consisting of sodium bicarbonate, calcium bicarbonate and potassium bicarbonate.

23. (Previously added) The liquefied soluble acidity reducing formulation, according to claim 5, wherein the soluble binder is selected from the group consisting of cornstarch, wheat flower, arrowroot, xanthan gum, gum arabic, guar gum, agar agar, locust bean gum, gum tragacanth, cellulose gums and mixtures thereof.

24. (Previously added) The liquefied soluble acidity reducing formulation, according to claim 23, wherein the soluble binder is cornstarch.
25. (Previously added) The liquefied soluble acidity reducing formulation, according to claim 23, wherein the soluble binder is xanthan gum.
26. (Previously added) The liquefied soluble acidity reducing formulation, according to claim 25, wherein the formulation includes from about 0.5 to about 1 part of propylene glycol.
27. (Previously added) The liquefied soluble acidity reducing formulation, according to claim 5, wherein the preservative is present and is selected from the group consisting of sodium benzoate and potassium sorbate.
28. (Previously added) The liquefied soluble acidity reducing formulation, according to claim 5, wherein said formulation includes less than about 1% by weight of said preservative, based on the weight of the bicarbonate and the soluble binder.
29. (Currently amended) A liquefied soluble acidity reducing formulation consisting essentially of an edible bicarbonate, a soluble binder, water and optionally a preservative, wherein the formulation includes from about 0.5 to about 1 part of propylene glycol and ~~substantially excludes~~ does not contain acidulent components.
30. (Previously added) The liquefied soluble acidity reducing formulation, according to claim 11, wherein the edible bicarbonate is selected from the group consisting of sodium bicarbonate, calcium bicarbonate, potassium bicarbonate.
31. (Previously added) The liquefied soluble acidity reducing formulation, according to claim 11, wherein the soluble binder is selected from the group consisting of cornstarch, wheat flower, arrowroot, xanthan gum, gum arabic, guar gum, agar agar, locust bean gum, gum tragacanth, cellulose gums and mixtures thereof.

32. (Previously added) The liquefied soluble acidity reducing formulation, according to claim 11, wherein the preservative is selected from the group consisting of sodium benzoate and potassium sorbate.

33. (Previously added) The liquefied soluble acidity reducing formulation, according to claim 11, wherein said formulation includes less than about 1% by weight of said preservative, based on the weight of the bicarbonate and the soluble binder.

34. (Previously added) The liquefied soluble acidity reducing formulation, according to claim 29, wherein the edible bicarbonate is selected from the group consisting of sodium bicarbonate, calcium bicarbonate, potassium bicarbonate.

35. (Previously added) The liquefied soluble acidity reducing formulation, according to claim 29, wherein the soluble binder is selected from the group consisting of cornstarch, wheat flower, arrowroot, xanthan gum, gum arabic, guar gum, agar agar, locust bean gum, gum tragacanth, cellulose gums and mixtures thereof.

36. (Previously added) The liquefied soluble acidity reducing formulation, according to claim 29, wherein the preservative is selected from the group consisting of sodium benzoate and potassium sorbate.

37. (Previously added) The liquefied soluble acidity reducing formulation, according to claim 29, wherein said formulation includes less than about 1% by weight of said preservative, based on the weight of the bicarbonate and the soluble binder.

38. (Previously added) The liquefied soluble acidity reducing formulation, according to claim 13, wherein the edible bicarbonate is selected from the group consisting of sodium bicarbonate, calcium bicarbonate and potassium bicarbonate.

39. (Previously added) The liquefied soluble acidity reducing formulation, according to claim 13, wherein the soluble binder is selected from the group consisting of cornstarch, wheat flower, arrowroot, xanthan gum, gum arabic, guar gum, agar agar, locust bean gum, gum tragacanth, cellulose gums and mixtures thereof.

40. (Previously added) The liquefied soluble acidity reducing formulation, according to claim 13, wherein the preservative is present and is selected from the group consisting of sodium benzoate and potassium sorbate.

41. (Previously added) The liquefied soluble acidity reducing formulation, according to claim 13, wherein said formulation includes from about 15% to about 20% by weight of said edible bicarbonate, based on the weight of the edible bicarbonate, soluble binder and water.

42. (Previously added) The liquefied soluble acidity reducing formulation, according to claim 13, wherein said formulation includes less than about 1% by weight of said preservative, based on the weight of the bicarbonate and the soluble binder.